

**Opening Statement of Chairman Walden
Subcommittee on Environment
Markup of H.R. 2278, H.R. 2378
June 27, 2018**

(As prepared for delivery)

Good morning and welcome to our subcommittee markup where we will consider two bills addressing projects managed by the Department of Energy's Offices of Environmental Management and Legacy Management.

Much of the Energy & Commerce Committee's focus this Congress on modernization and lapsed authorizations of Department of Energy programs has been overseen by Vice Chairman Barton and Energy Subcommittee Chairman Upton. The two targeted bills before us today are part of the Environment Subcommittee's related efforts to address cleanup projects and legacy needs associated with the development and deployment of atomic energy technologies.

H.R. 2278, the Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2017, extends the authorized operation of the Grand Junction, Colorado uranium mill tailings disposal cell for another 25 years, mirroring the length of time the site was originally authorized to operate. This proactive, bipartisan bill will assure this important cleanup site remains available to safely dispose of contaminated radioactive material.

The second bill we will consider this morning reauthorizes the Department of Energy's environmental remediation activities at the sole location in the United States that reprocessed spent nuclear fuel for commercial purposes in West Valley, New York. The state of New York owns the site and funds a portion of the cleanup activities at the location. The bill's sponsor, Congressman Tom Reed, is a strong advocate for an ongoing and strengthened partnership between DOE and the state of New York. I would also note that Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member Paul Tonko oversaw the program prior to his election to Congress and I appreciate his leadership on the issue as well.

Marking up these bills this morning will continue our agenda to methodically review and renew, where necessary, important federal government programs. I look forward to passage of these bills today and consideration by the full Committee in the near future.